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RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0136
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SIPDIS
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SUBJ: The Leadership Landscape in Fujian

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¶1. Summary: Fujian province has witnessed major leadership changes, including one serious demotion and several promotions, since mid-2008. As a result of new additions to Fujian's provincial leadership, portfolios have been shuffled across the board. Although most new leaders have come in at the Vice Governor level, it is hard to predict who will succeed current Governor Huang Xiaojing when his term expires in 2012 because Beijing has traditionally filled that position with officials from outside Fujian. End Summary.

Major Leadership Changes

¶2. Major leadership changes, including one serious demotion and several promotions, have taken place in Fujian province since mid-2008. Chen Shaoyang, former Fujian Communist Party of China (CPC) Standing Committee Member and the Committee's Secretary General, was sacked for corruption and "immorality" in July 2008. He lost his position as CPC Secretary General in June 2008, was expelled from the party in January 2009, and is currently under investigation.

¶3. Yu Guangzhou, former Executive Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce in Beijing, became Deputy Party Secretary of Fujian in November 2008. Yang Yue, who also served in Beijing as Executive Secretary of the Central China Youth League's (CYL) Secretariat, became a Standing Committee Member of the Fujian CPC in December ¶2008. He is responsible for politics and law enforcement in his new position. Born in 1968, Yang holds a doctorate and has a background similar to that of General Secretary Hu Jintao. At the age of 29, he also served as the CYL Party Secretary of Tsinghua University and later joined the Central CPC.

The New Vice Governors

¶4. There are several other new additions to Fujian's provincial leadership. Chen Hua, current Vice Governor of Fujian, replaced Wang Meixiang, who is now serving as a vice chair in the Fujian People's Congress. Chen's portfolio includes education, culture, health, sports, radio and TV, family planning, senior citizens, civic development, and Taiwan affairs.

¶5. Zhang Zhinan, also a new Vice Governor in Fujian, previously served as Deputy Secretary General of the Fujian Government, Director General of the Fujian Development and Reform Commission, and Deputy Party Secretary of the CYL. Representing western Fujian's Hakka power base, his portfolio includes reform and development issues, civil affairs, transportation, statistics, pricing, ocean border control, finance, police, national security and justice. Zhang, only 48 years old, is the youngest of all vice governors.

¶6. Hong Jiexu, selected as Vice Governor in January 2008, is from

the non-CPC political party of Jiu San Society, which mainly consists of academic representatives. His portfolio includes foreign affairs, tourism, overseas Chinese affairs, Hong Kong and Macao affairs, and ethnic and religious affairs.

Leadership Portfolios

¶7. The arrival of new leaders in Fujian caused the shuffling of several portfolios, including those at the very top. Huang Xiaojing, the current Governor of Fujian, is now responsible for development and reform, finance, state assets, auditing, supervision (disciplinary inspections), and government rightsizing, in addition to the overall work of the Fujian government.

¶8. Zhang Changping, Fujian's Executive Vice Governor, manages human resources, rural development, and agriculture. He also assists Governor Huang in the areas of finance, government rightsizing, and supervision. Zhang is a Standing Committee Member of the Fujian CPC.

¶9. Ye Shuangyu, Li Chuan, and Su Zengtian are other Vice Governors who oversee diverse economic and political issues. Ye Shuangyu handles foreign and domestic trade, foreign investment, the Administration for Industry and Commerce, border administration, and anti-corruption. Li Chuan looks after industry, labor and social security, science and technology, information technology, technical supervision, pharmaceutical supervision, and production safety. Su Zengtian directs tasks related to construction, land resources, environmental protection, and air defense. Both Li and Su also assist the governor with the management of state asset administration.

Next in Line for Governor

¶10. Comment: Already in his second and final term, current Governor of Fujian Huang Xiaojing will vacate his post in 2012. The

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governorship has traditionally been filled by a number of "airborne" officials -- outsiders with previous work experience in other parts of China -- such as current Fujian Party Secretary Lu Zhongong, who had only two years of work experience in Fujian before becoming the province's governor in 2003. As a result, it is difficult to predict who will take the governor's reins in 2012. End comment.

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